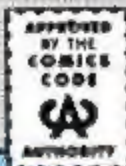




STILL 75¢
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658
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SUPERMAN IN ACTION COMICS

DAVOOD--
STAY BACK!
THIS SPACESHIP'S
READY TO
BLOW!

BUT WITHOUT
MY HELP, **EVERYONE**
IN METROPOLIS WILL
BE **KILLED** IN THE
BLAST!

MESSNER
LOEBS,
SWAN &
JANKE

SINBAD'S SACRIFICE!

CURT SWAN
MONTH:
WEEK FOUR!

SUPERMAN

The

SINBAD CONTRACT

Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

BILL MESSNER-
LOEBS
WRITER

CURT
SWAN *
PENCILLER

DENNIS
JANKE
INKER

BILL OAKLEY ~ LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE ~ COLORIST

JONATHAN PETERSON * MIKE CARLIN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR EDITOR

Part Three

IN A WAREHOUSE ON THE
OUTSKIRTS OF METROPOLIS,
A DEAL IS STRUCK...

SO, WE AGREE, MR.
LUTHOR? YOU WILL RETURN
THE BELT TO US AND WE IN
TURN WILL USE THIS
SAUCER TO DESTROY
YOUR ENEMY?

AGREED. I ASSUME
THE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE
BELT AND THIS SAUCER
CAME FROM THE SAME
PLACE?

YES. AFTER THE
INVASION, A WOUNDED
POOPDO PILOT AND HIS
SCOUT SHIP CAME INTO
OUR POSSESSION.

WE... CONVINCED
HIM TO WORK
FOR US ON
VARIOUS
DEVICES FOR
SEVERAL
MONTHS.

EVENTUALLY,
HE DIED. THE
BELT WAS HIS
MOST ADVANCED
PROJECT. WE
CANNOT
DUPLICATE
IT.

SO WHEN
YOUR
AGENT...

MISLAID...

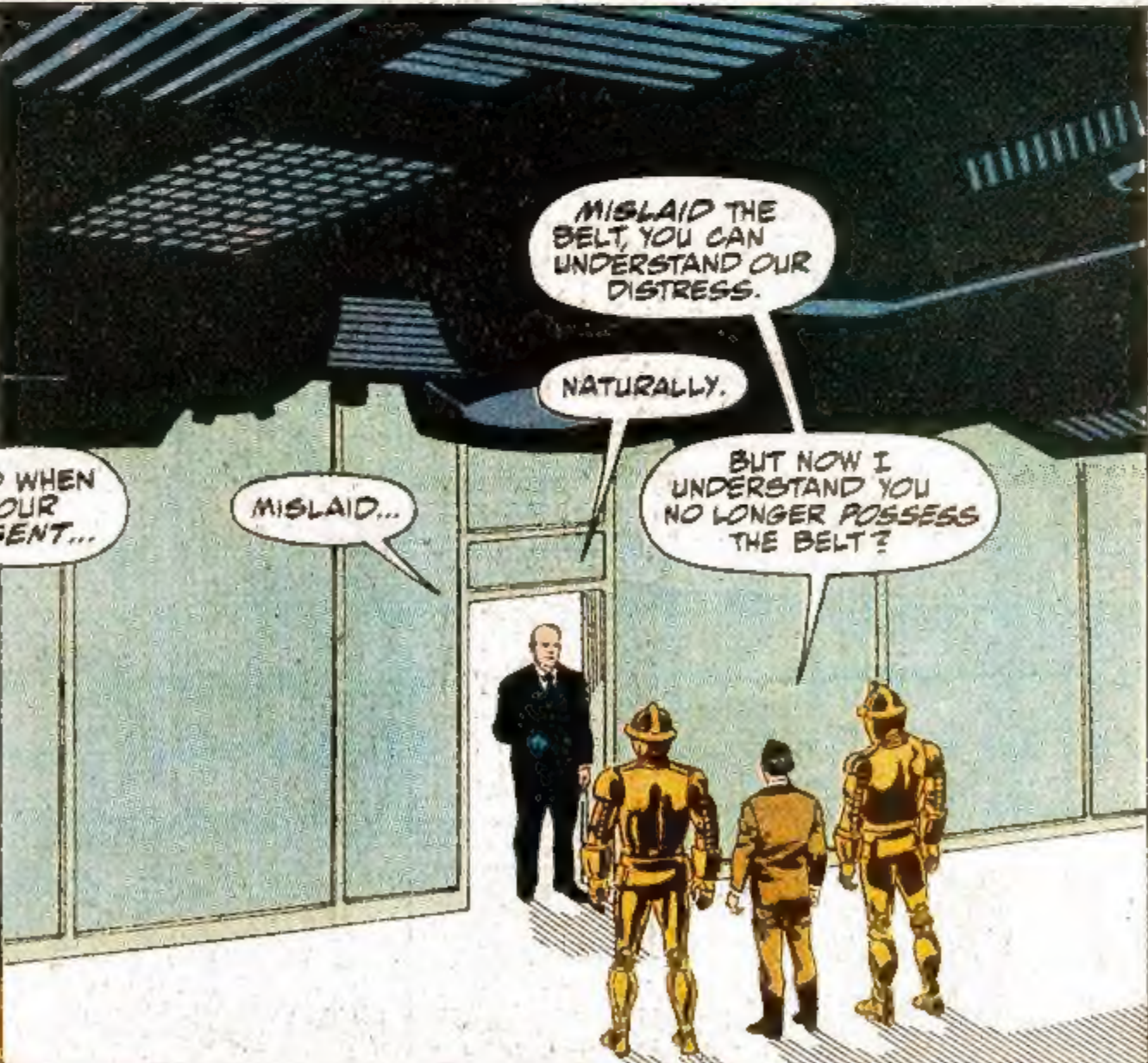
MISLAID THE
BELT, YOU CAN
UNDERSTAND OUR
DISTRESS.

NATURALLY.

BUT NOW I
UNDERSTAND YOU
NO LONGER POSSESS
THE BELT?

THAT IS BEING
REMEDIED.
THE YOUNG
MAN WHO
TOOK THE BELT
FROM ME WILL
SOON REGRET
HIS RASH-
NESS.

EVEN
NOW, I AM
TAKING STEPS
TO ASSURE
THAT NO ONE
WILL
SHELTER OR
BELIEVE HIM.
NO ONE!



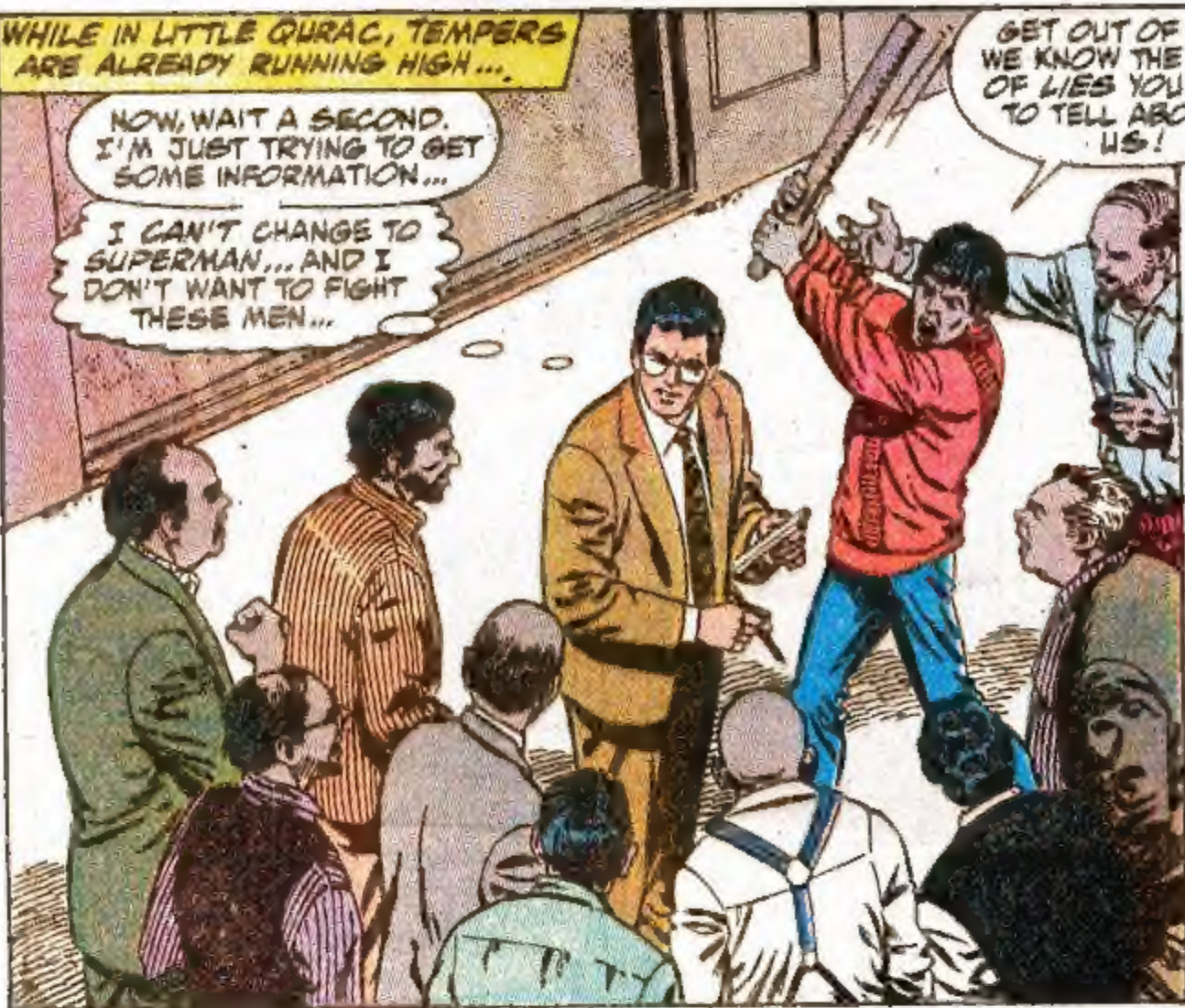
WHILE IN LITTLE QURAC, TEMPER
ARE ALREADY RUNNING HIGH...

NOW, WAIT A SECOND.
I'M JUST TRYING TO GET
SOME INFORMATION...

I CAN'T CHANGE TO
SUPERMAN... AND I
DON'T WANT TO FIGHT
THESE MEN...

GET OUT OF HERE!
WE KNOW THE SORT
OF LIES YOU WANT
TO TELL ABOUT
US!

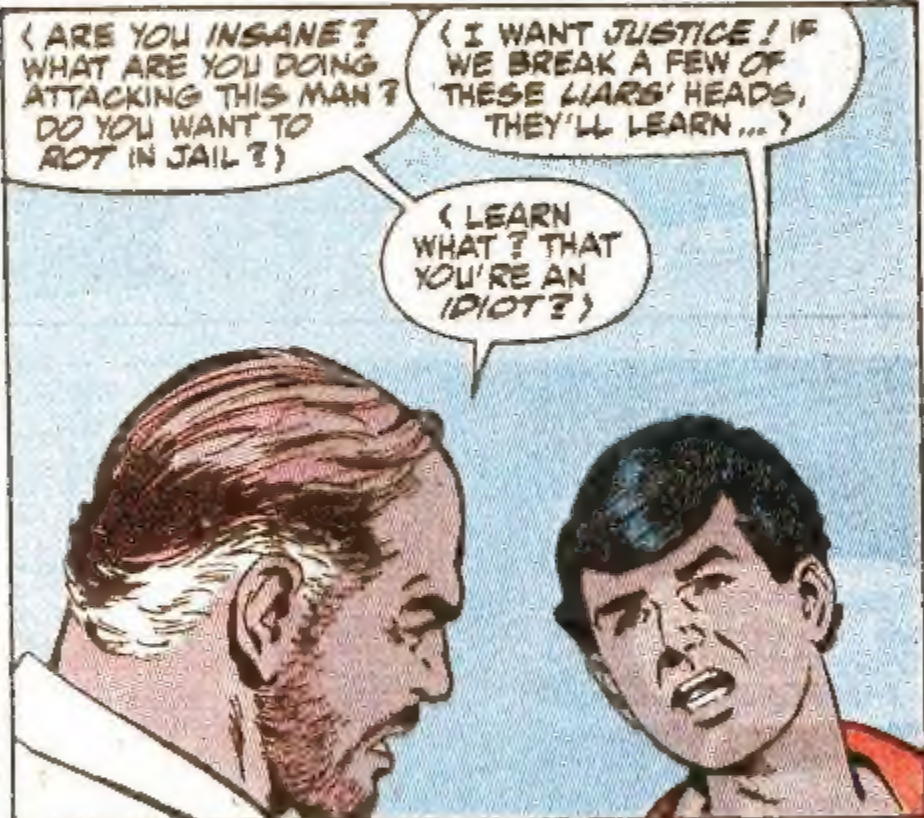
(STOP IT,
RAFFIE!)



(ARE YOU INSANE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING
ATTACKING THIS MAN?
DO YOU WANT TO
ROT IN JAIL?)

(I WANT JUSTICE! IF
WE BREAK A FEW OF
THESE LIARS' HEADS,
THEY'LL LEARN...)

(LEARN
WHAT? THAT
YOU'RE AN
IDIOT?)



(I THOUGHT YOU'D
KNOW BETTER THAN
TO BUCKLE UNDER TO
THESE PEOPLE,
TIMUR!)

(I DON'T HAVE TO
PROVE MY COURAGE...
LEAST OF ALL TO
YOU!)

UM...
THANKS.



RAFFIE'S
ALWAYS BEEN
A HOTHEAD.

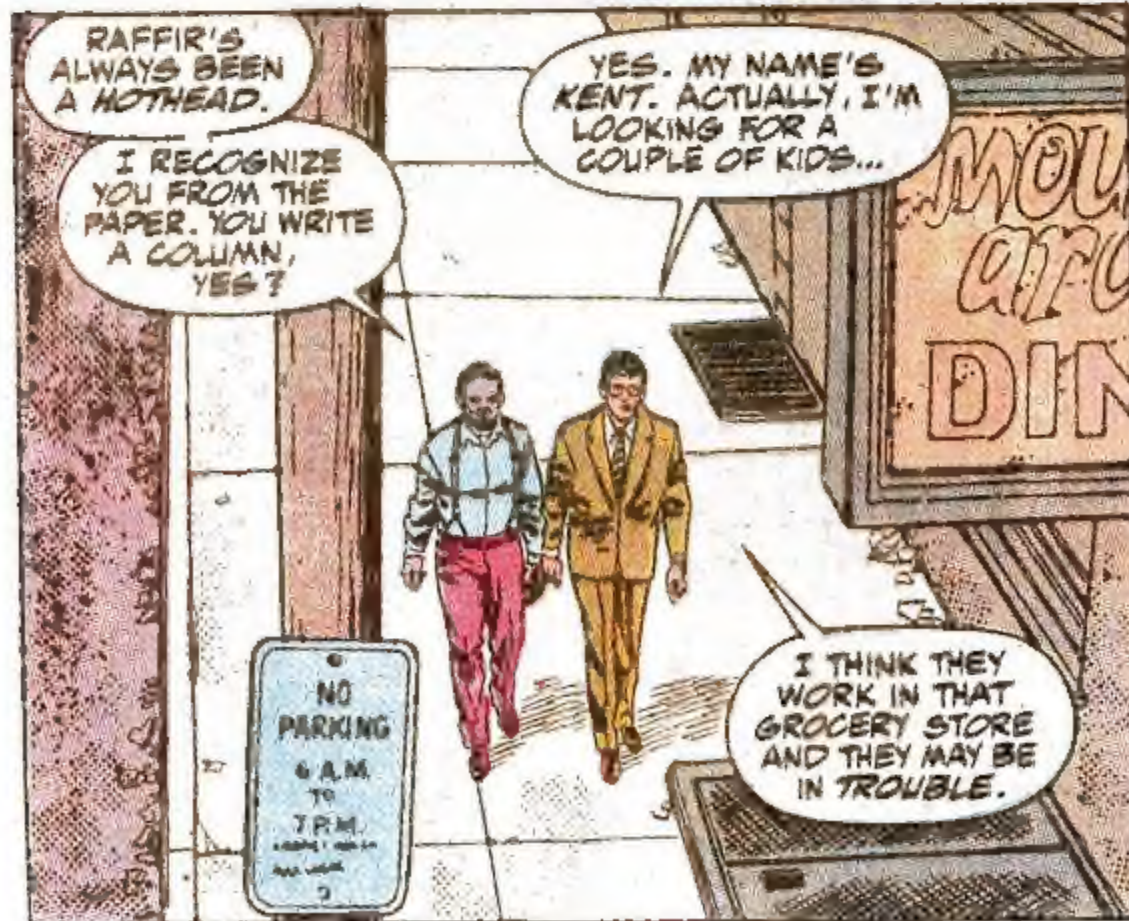
I RECOGNIZE
YOU FROM THE
PAPER. YOU WRITE
A COLUMN,
YES?

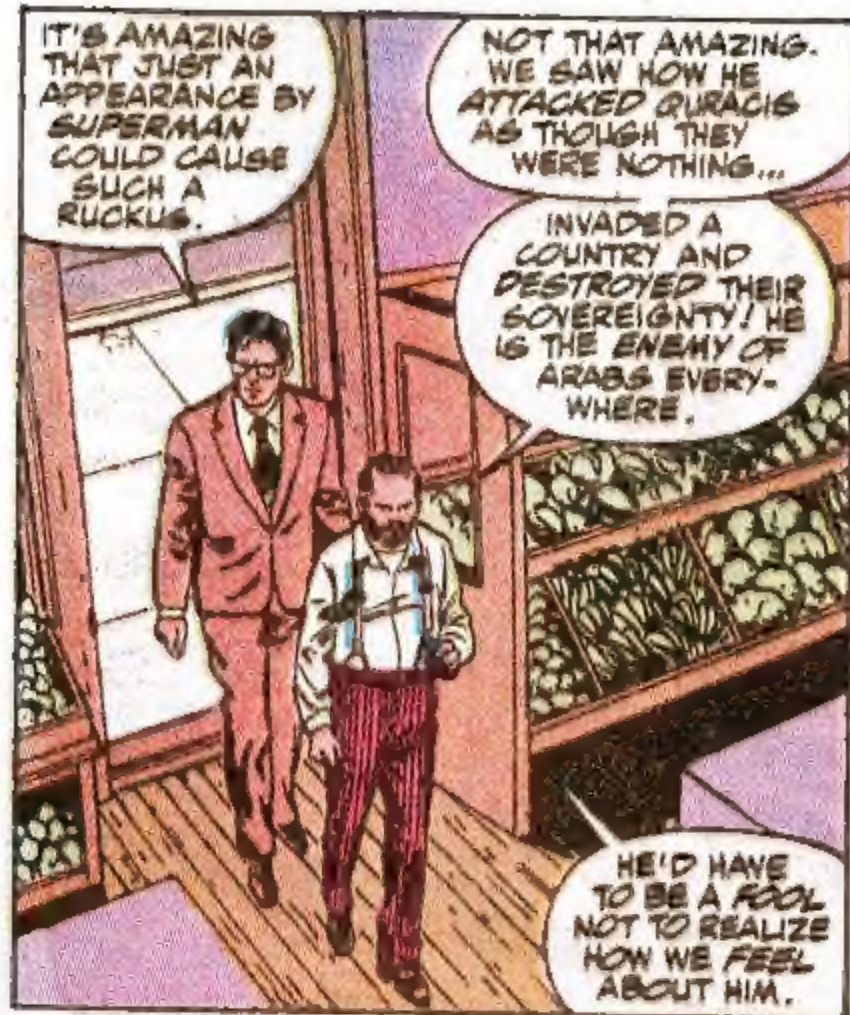
YES. MY NAME'S
KENT. ACTUALLY, I'M
LOOKING FOR A
COUPLE OF KIDS...

MOL
AFD
DIN

I THINK THEY
WORK IN THAT
GROCERY STORE
AND THEY MAY BE
IN TROUBLE.

I SEE. THEN
MAYBE GOD
SENT YOU
AFTER ALL.
COME ON.





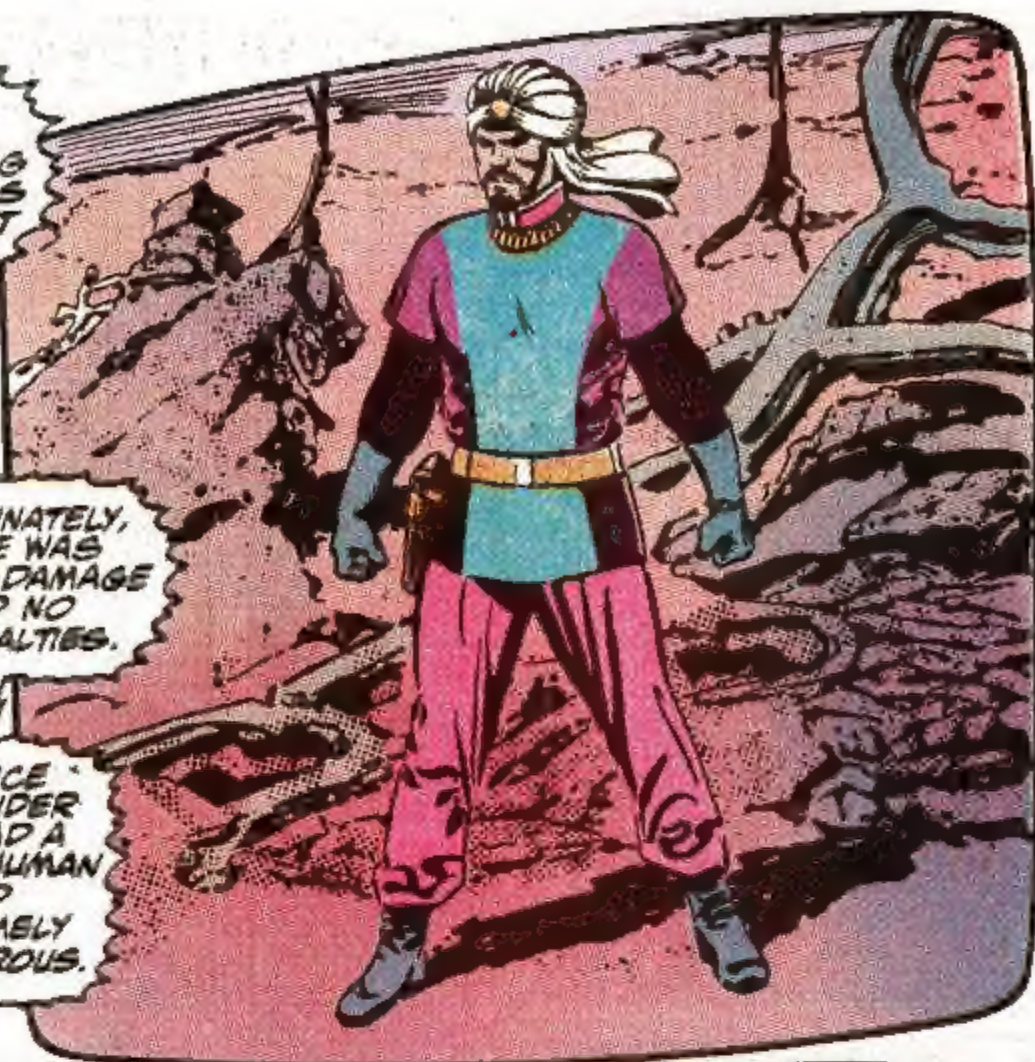
...HAS BEEN ANOTHER SIGHTING OF THE MYSTERIOUS TERRORIST CALLING HIMSELF "SINBAD"...

-- THIS TIME IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BOMBING OF THE METROPOLIS WATER TREATMENT FACILITY.



FORTUNATELY, THERE WAS LITTLE DAMAGE AND NO CASUALTIES.

POLICE CONSIDER SINBAD A META-HUMAN AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.



THIS JUST IN. SINBAD HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS "DAYOOD NASSUR," A QURACI WITH KNOWN RADICAL TIES.



POLICE ARE ADVISING EXTREME CAUTION...

ALLAH, NO! THEY'LL KILL HIM!

WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON. ARE YOU SURE THOSE WERE GOVERNMENT MEN?



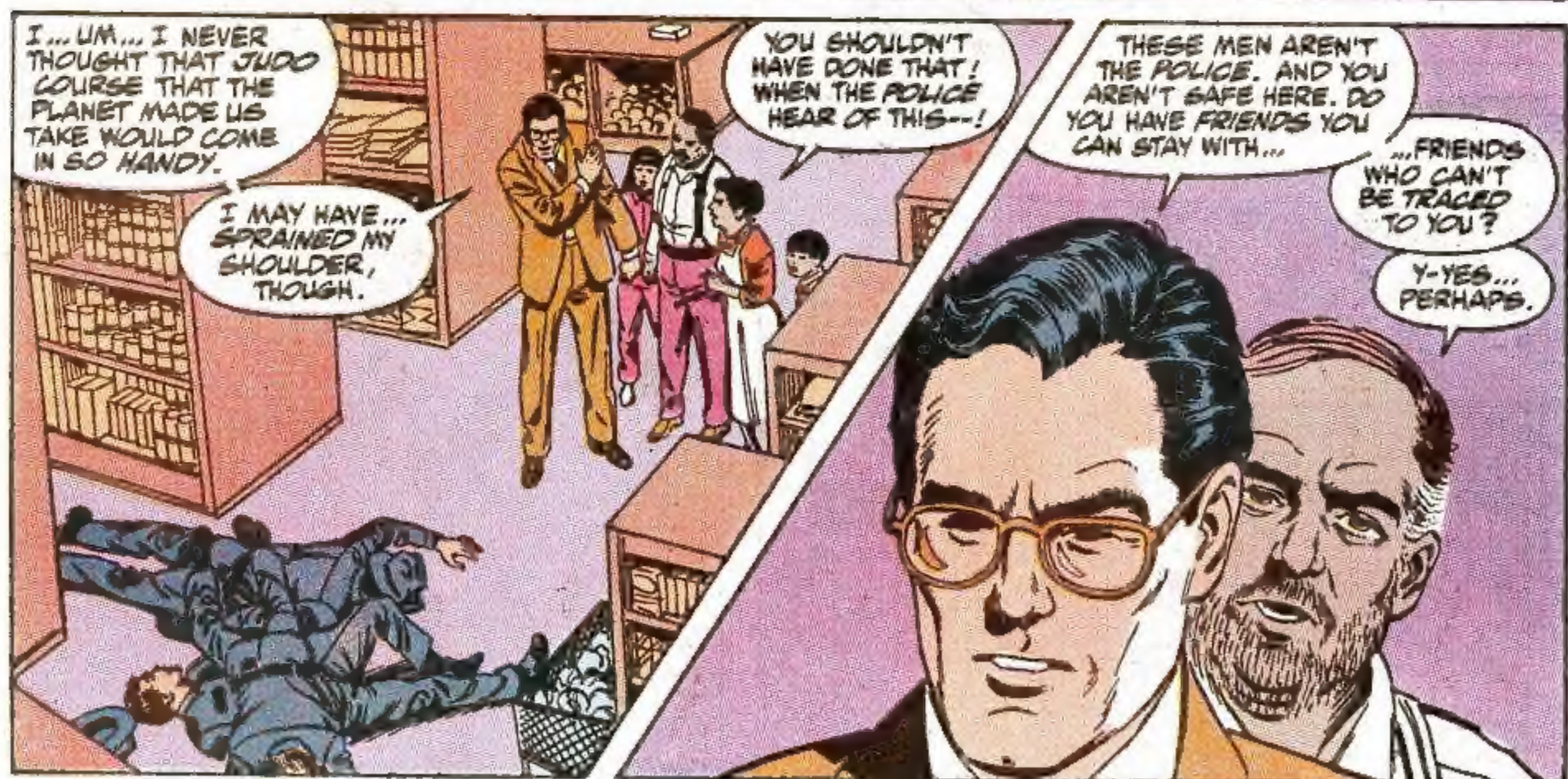
WHO ELSE WOULD THEY BE?

I'M NOT SURE... BUT WITH LEXCORP INVOLVED...

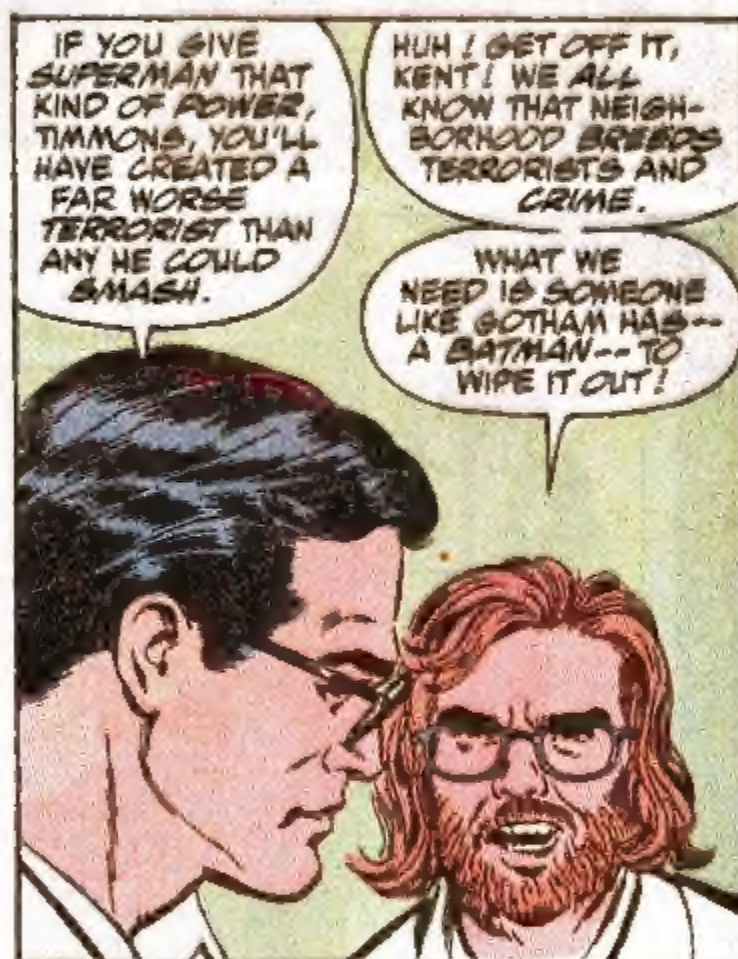
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!













I STILL DO NOT SEE HOW THESE FAKED TERRORIST ATTACKS CAN HELP US RECOVER THE BELT.

BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE BEST CONTROLLED THROUGH FEAR. IF I CAN PROVOKE A RIOT, WE CAN GO INTO LITTLE QURAC WITH GUNS BLAZING.

NO ONE WILL OBJECT!



AND THE LITTLE SURPRISE YOU MENTIONED WITHIN THIS MACHINE... IS IT NUCLEAR?

THE NEXT STEP. IT'S THE FAIL-SAFE BUILT IN BY THE ALIENS. VERY POTENT.



ONCE THE BOY AND THE BELT ARE... TAKEN, THERE'LL BE NOTHING LEFT TO INVESTIGATE.

ALL PEOPLE WILL REMEMBER WAS THERE WAS A TERRORIST AND LEXCORP STOPPED HIM.

YOU SEE, ONCE YOU KNOW WHAT PEOPLE FEAR, YOU CAN EASILY CONTROL...



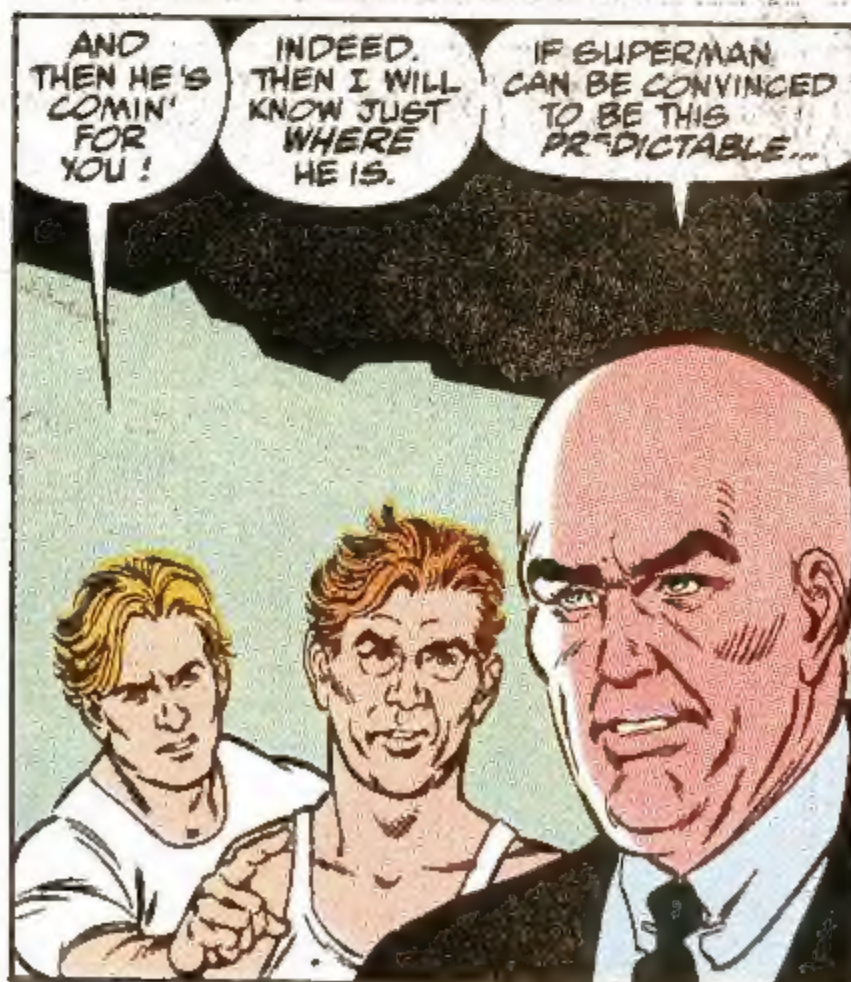
MR. LUTHOR! HELP!

EH? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? AND WHERE ARE YOUR CLOTHES?



SINBAD... THE REAL SINBAD... TOOK 'EM! HE GAVE US A MESSAGE!

HE SAID TO TELL YOU HE'S GONNA STOP ALL THE FAKE SINBADS... THEN HE'S GONNA TAKE BACK LITTLE QURAC...!



AND THEN HE'S COMIN' FOR YOU!

INDEED. THEN I WILL KNOW JUST WHERE HE IS.

IF SUPERMAN CAN BE CONVINCED TO BE THIS PREDICTABLE...



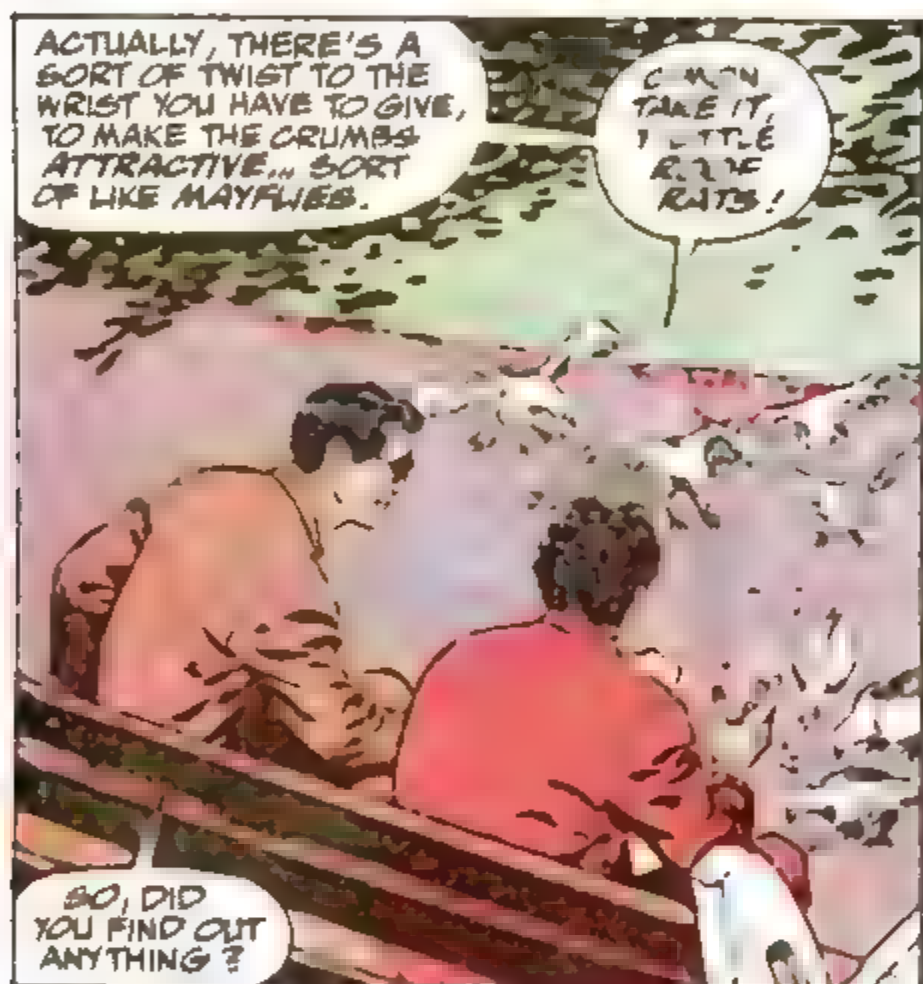
"...DESTROYING THEM BOTH
WILL BE AS SIMPLE AS A
WALK IN THE PARK."

AND THERE HE IS
HE'S GOING TO
WALK LIKE A SNAKE.
I JUST KNOW THAT'S THE
POINT



HELLO, "HENRY."
STILL HARD AT
WORK, I SEE.

OF COURSE
I LIVE TO
SERVE



ACTUALLY, THERE'S A
SORT OF TWIST TO THE
WRIST YOU HAVE TO GIVE,
TO MAKE THE CRUMBS
ATTRACTIVE, IN SORT
OF LIKE MAYFLIES.

C'MON
TAKE IT,
LITTLE
R.I.P.E
RITS!

SO, DID
YOU FIND OUT
ANYTHING?



NOT MUCH. YOUR
BOY IS CLEAN. NO
TERRIBLE
CONNECTIONS

HIS UNCLE
WAS A UNION
ORGANIZER
AGAINST THE
SHAN. BUT THAT
WAS A LONG
TIME AGO.



INTERESTING. AND YET
WE KEEP HEARING HOW THIS
KID HAS A HISTORY OF
TERRORISM. ANY OTHER
TIDBITS?

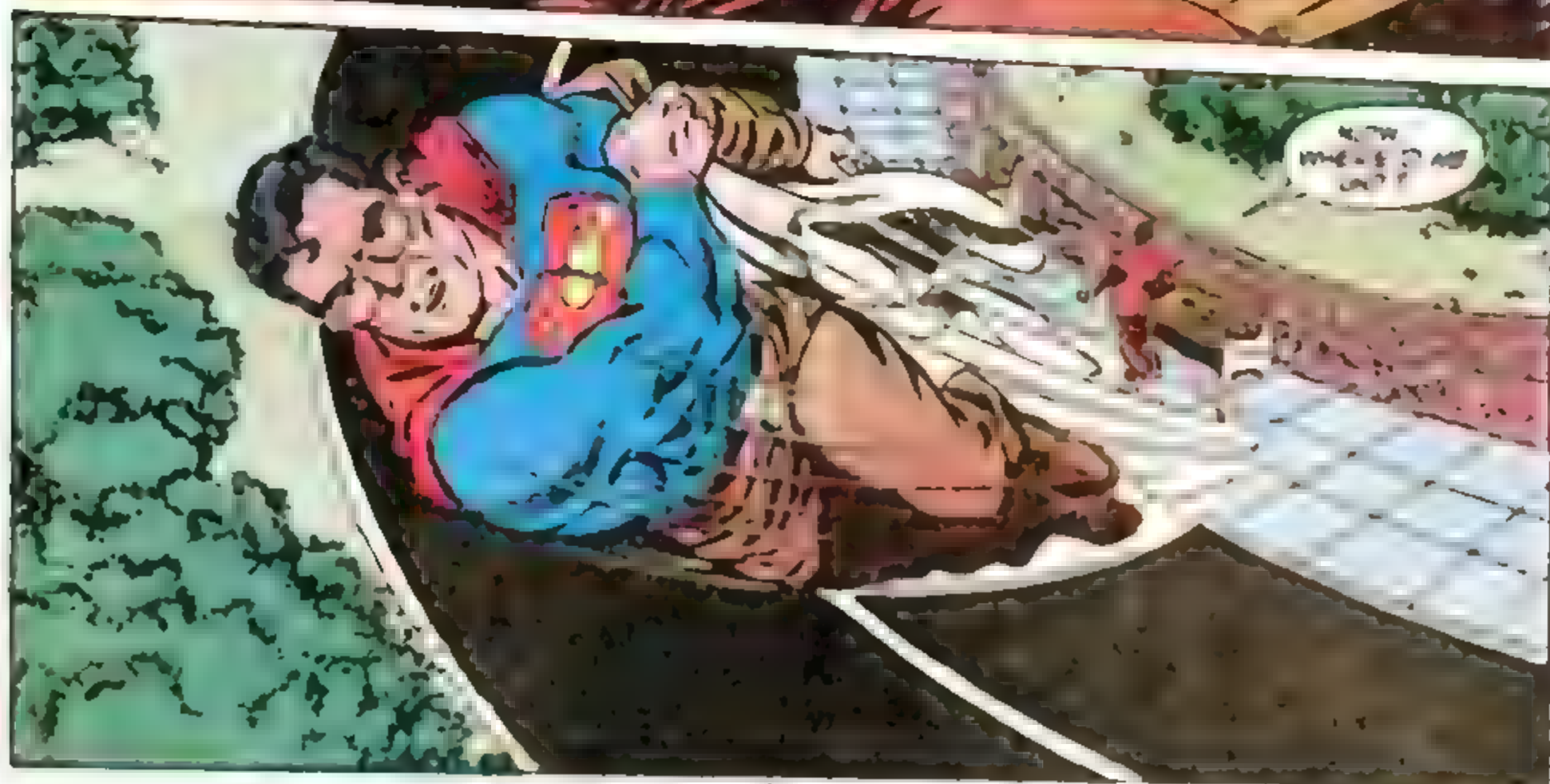
ONLY THAT THERE'S
A RUMOR OF ARMS
MERCHANTS CALLED
D.H.T. BAD GUNS. THEY'RE
HERE IN METROPOLIS.
NO CLUE AS TO WHY

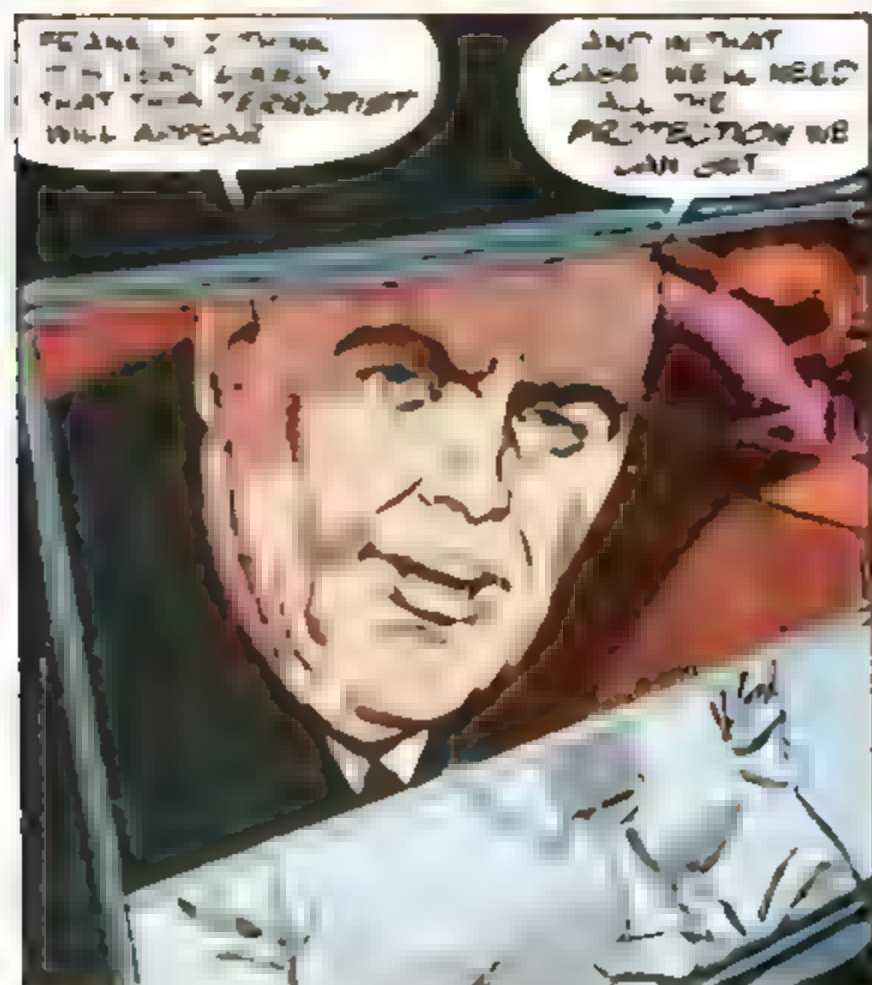
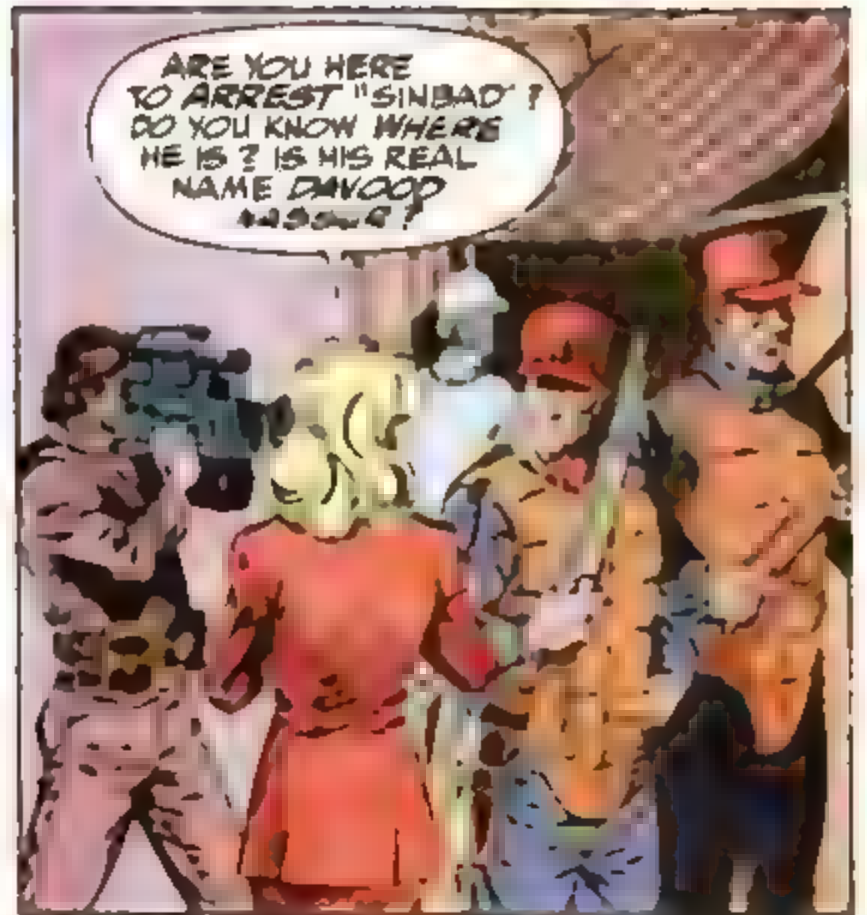
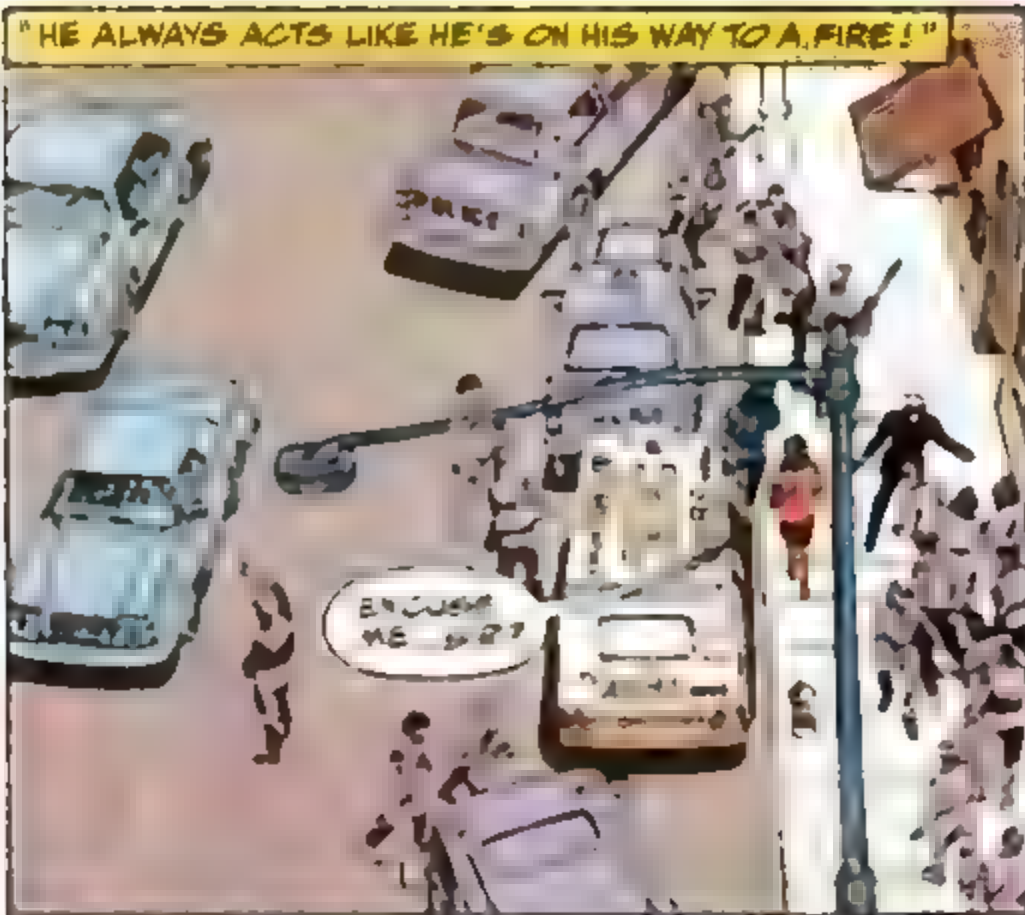


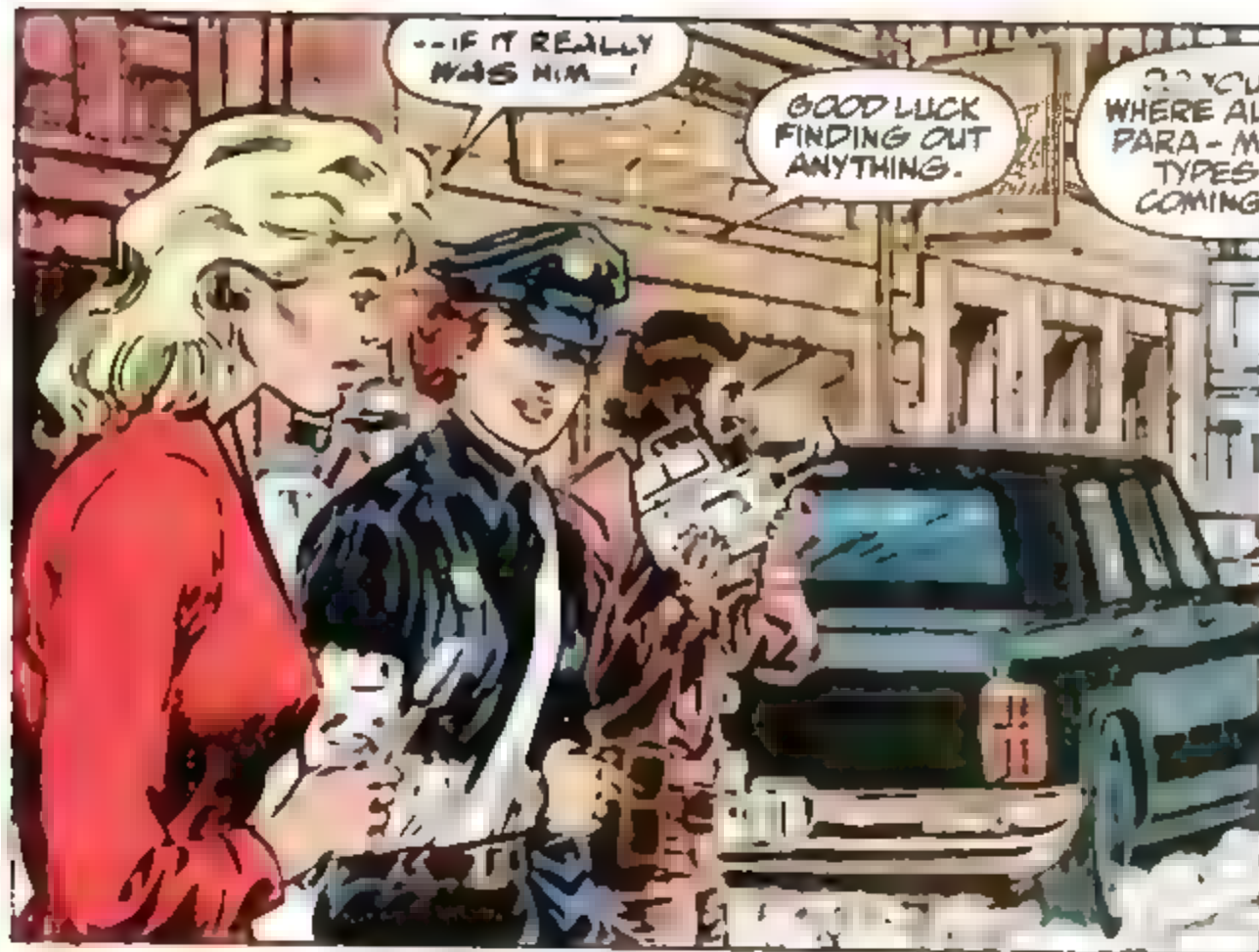
C'MON
"HENRY."
GIVE THE
L.I.C.U.D.
A LITTLE MORE
THAN THAT.

CLARA F. YOU KEEP HEARING
I'M SOMETHING OTHER THAN A
P.L.R. UNDERPAID BUREAUCRAT
AT THE ISRAELI EMBASSY.

SOES YOU
GET ON THE
BRAIN!







--IF IT REALLY WAS HIM--

GOOD LUCK FINDING OUT ANYTHING.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE ALL THESE PARA-MILITARY TYPES ARE COMING FROM?



W. E. CENTRAL DIVISION, FBI BUREAU

THEY PULLED ME BACK ON DUTY FOR CROWD CONTROL. BUT THEY DON'T TELL US ANYTHING.



(ALL THESE PEOPLE, POLICE AND EVERYTHING! ARE THEY ALL HUNTING FOR US?)

(YEAH AND THERE'S TV CAMERAS DOWN THERE WHO CALLED THEM?)



(THIS IS JUST WHAT WE WANTED, RIGHT? WE CAN TELL OUR SIDE NOW.)

(WONDER IF THEY'RE GOING TO LISTEN TO US.)



(DON'T WAIT!)

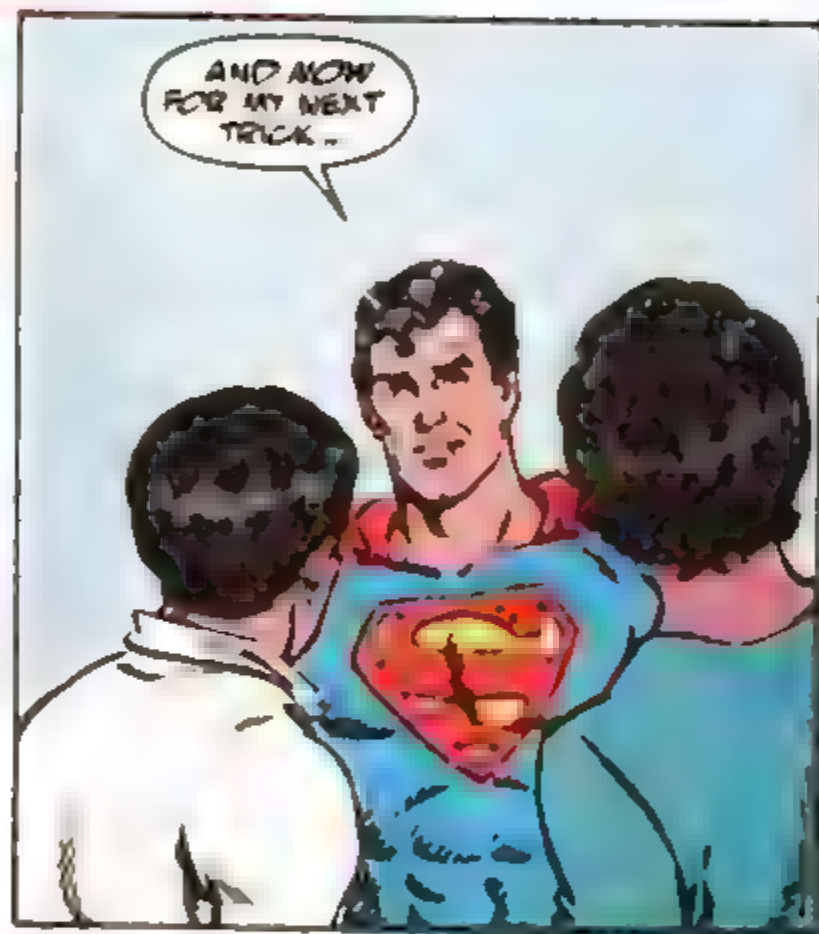
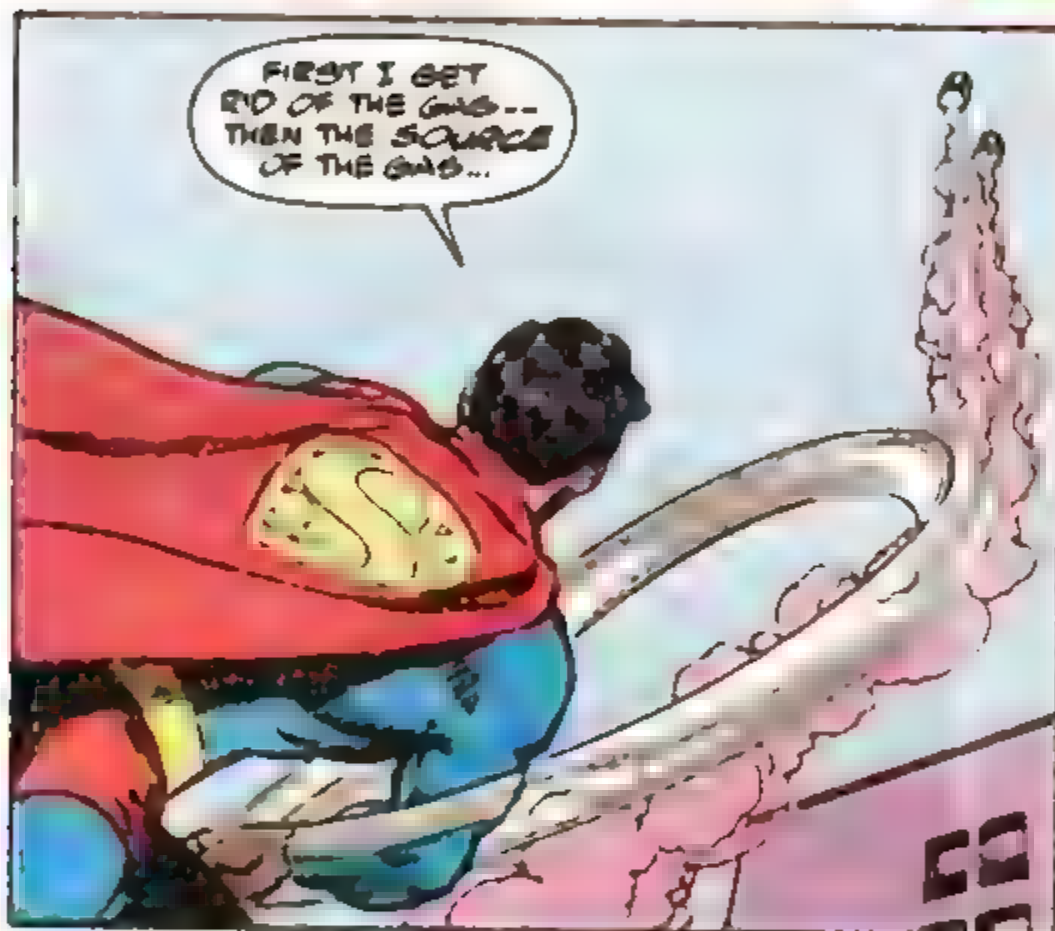
(I'VE BEEN HERE EVERY DAY I HAVE THE MOST POWERFUL THEY CAN'T HURT ME)

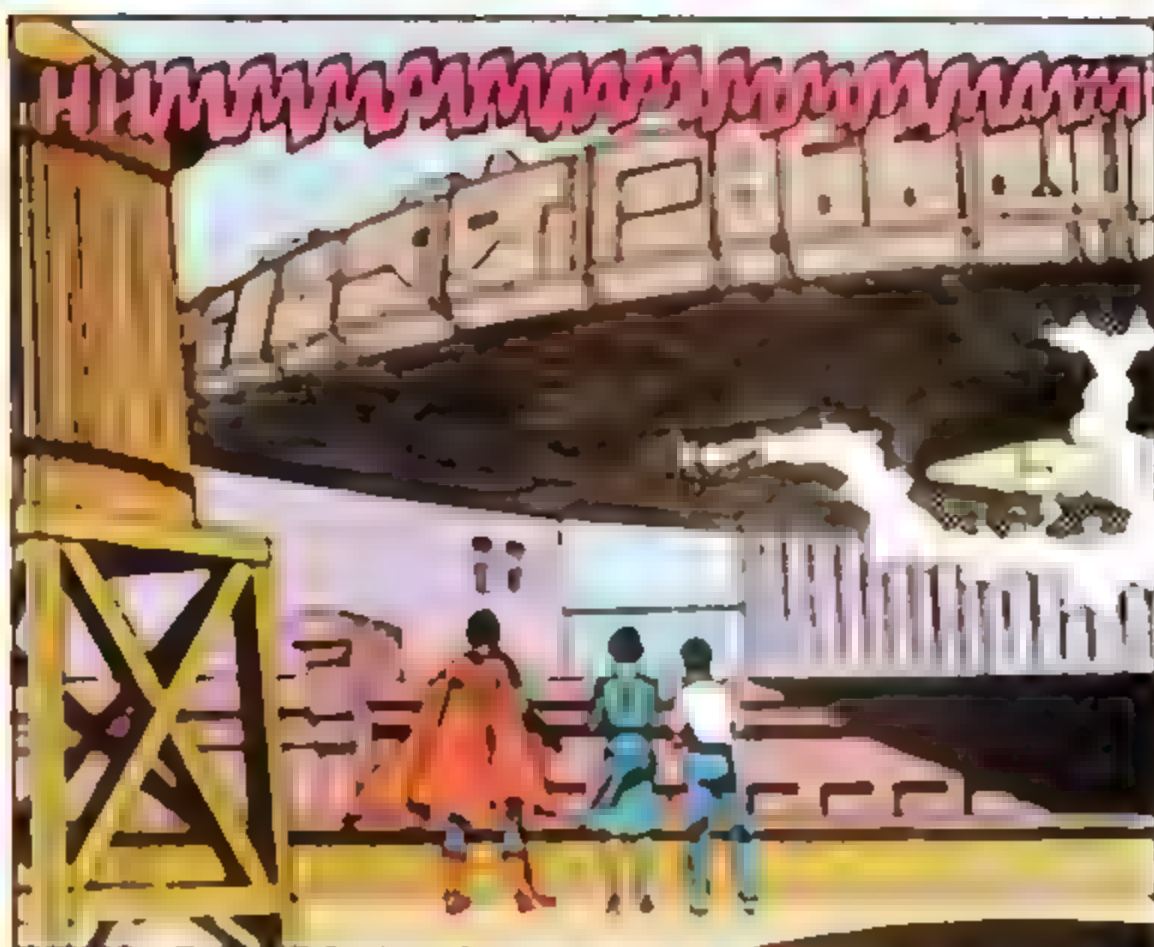


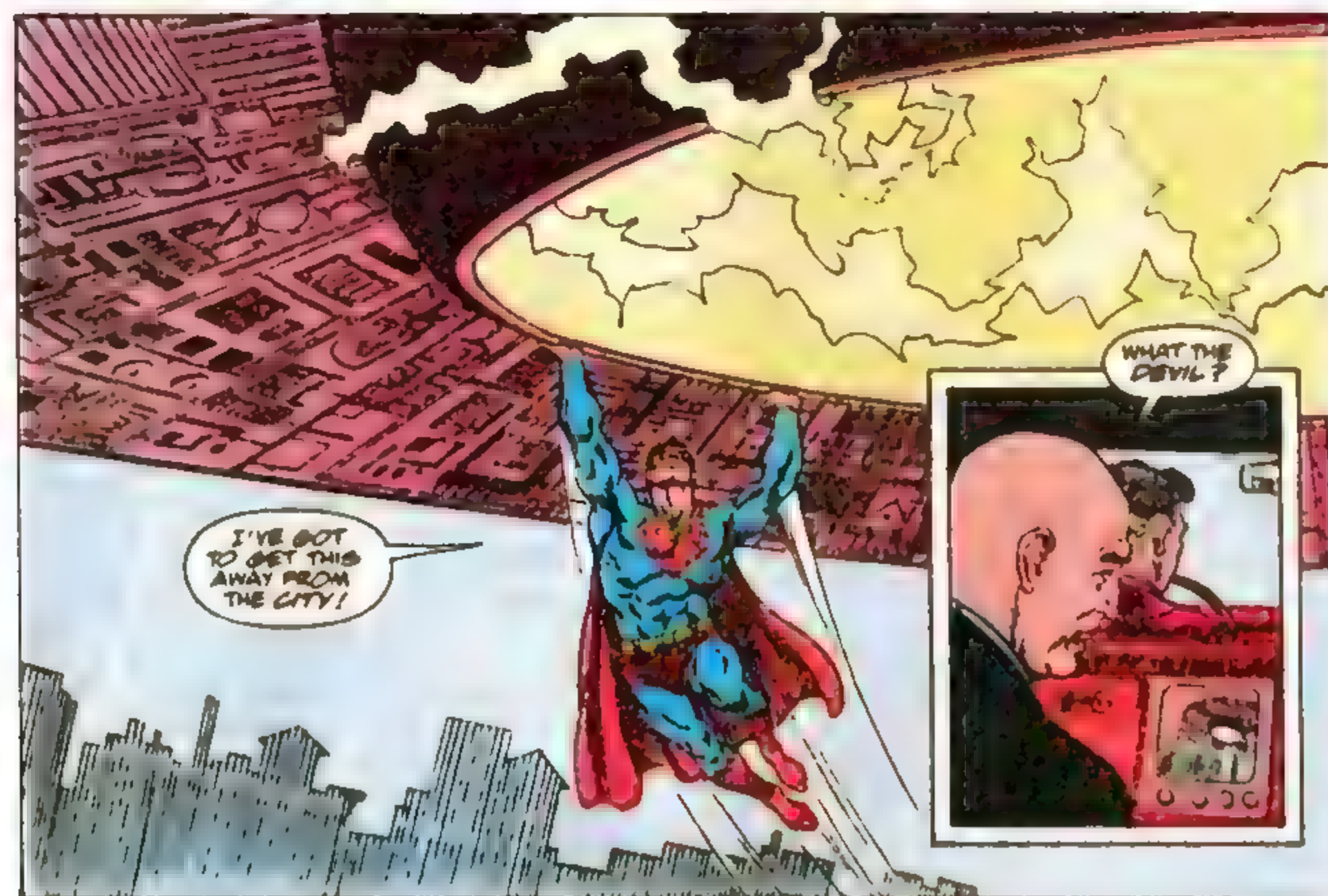
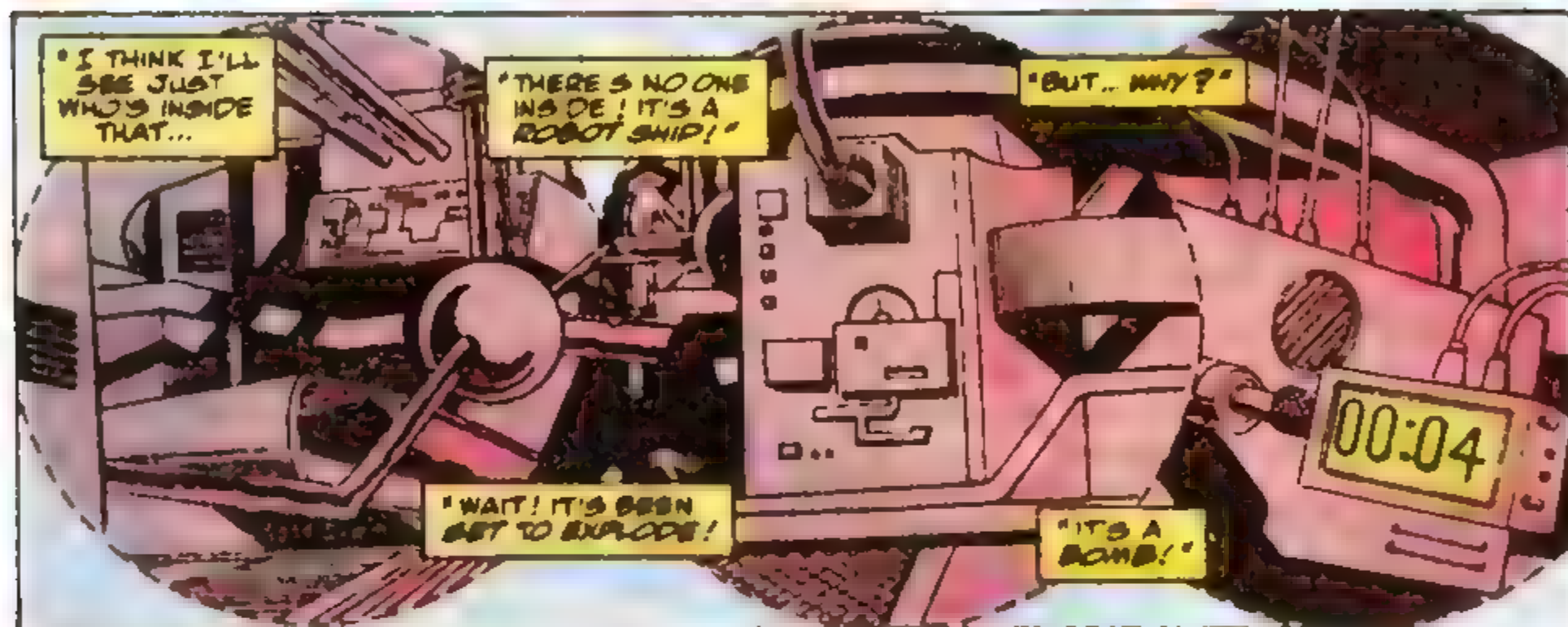
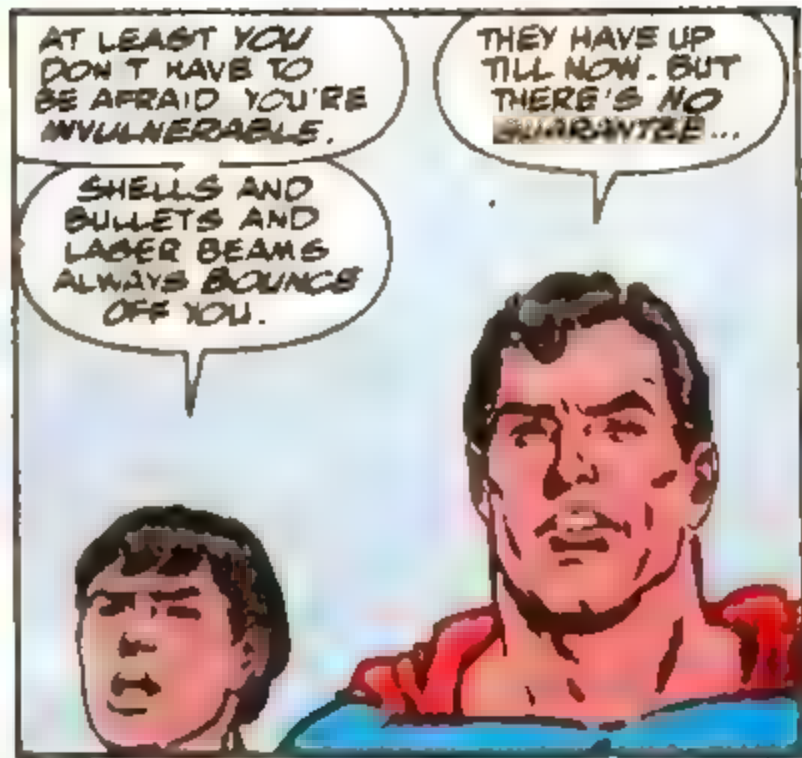
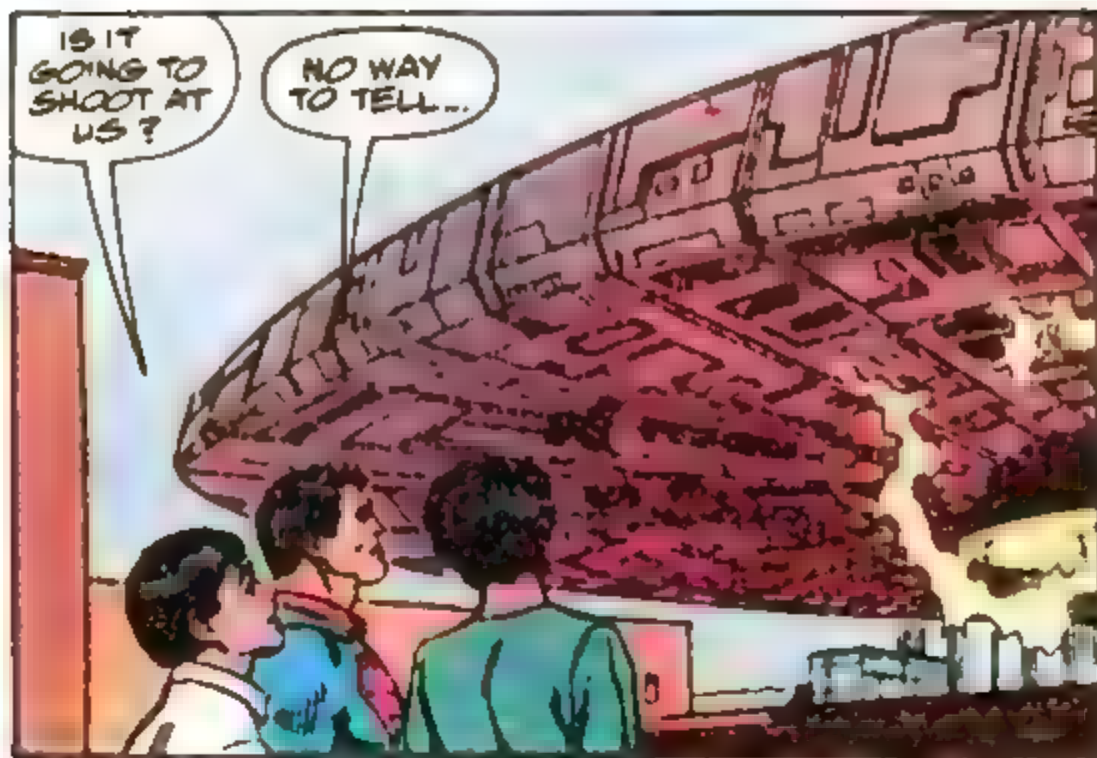
PEOPLE OF METROPOLIS! I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU!

COMMENCE FIRING NOW!







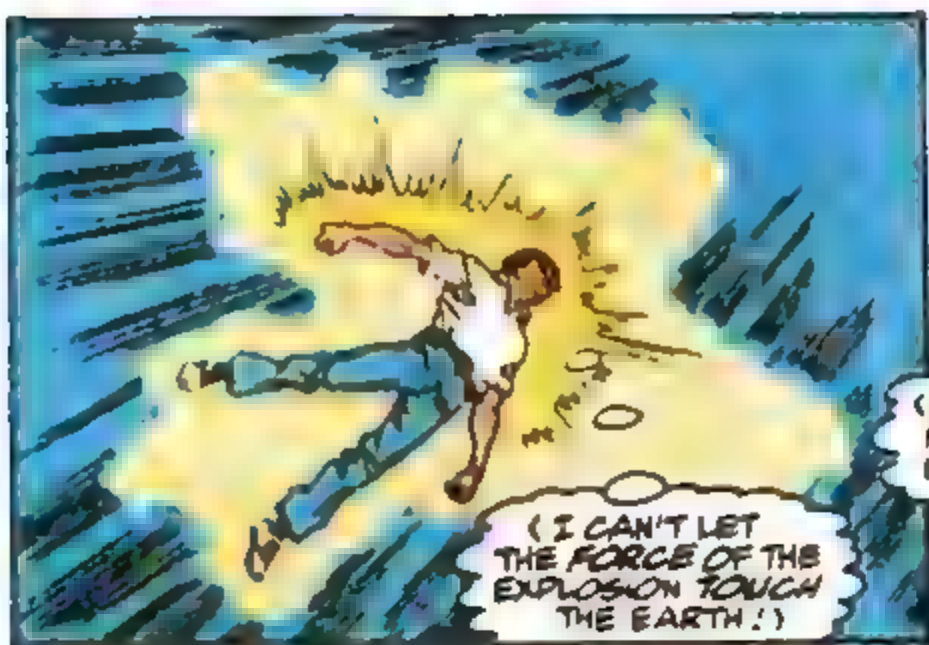




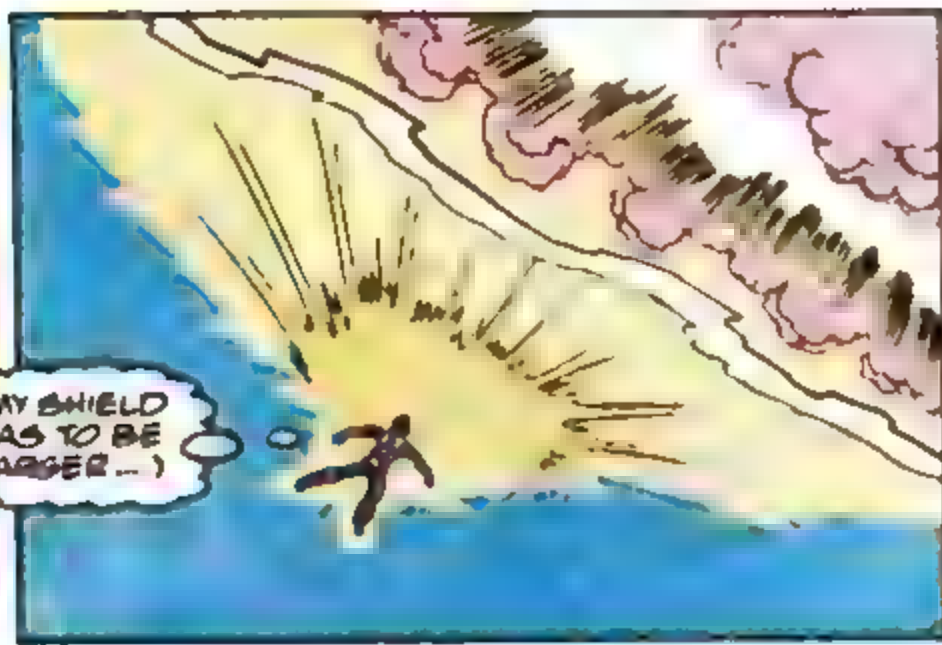


(SUPERMAN
WASN'T ABLE TO
GET THE SAUCER
OUT OF RANGE!)

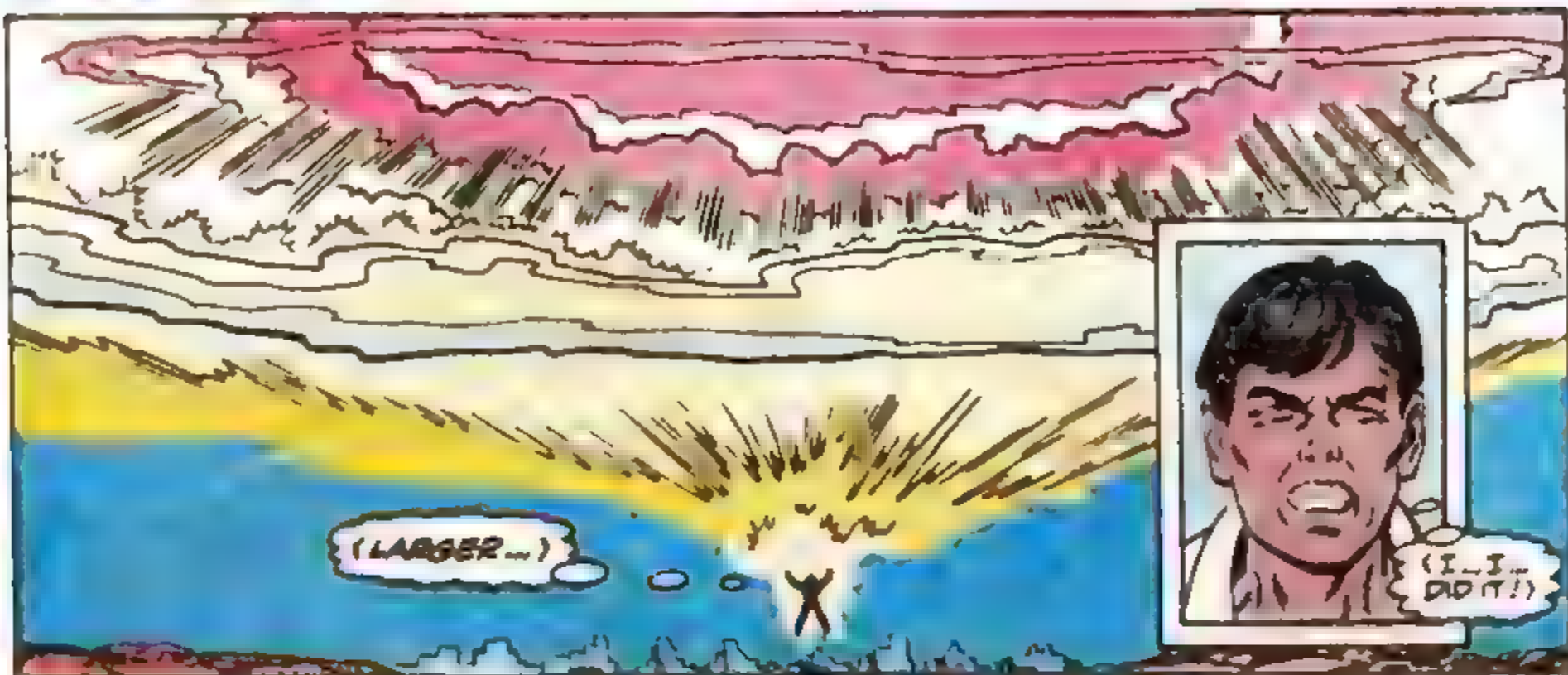
(HUNDREDS
OF PEOPLE
WILL BE
KILLED!)



(I CAN'T LET
THE FORCE OF THE
EXPLOSION TOUCH
THE EARTH!)



(MY SHIELD
HAS TO BE
LARGER...)



(LARGER...)



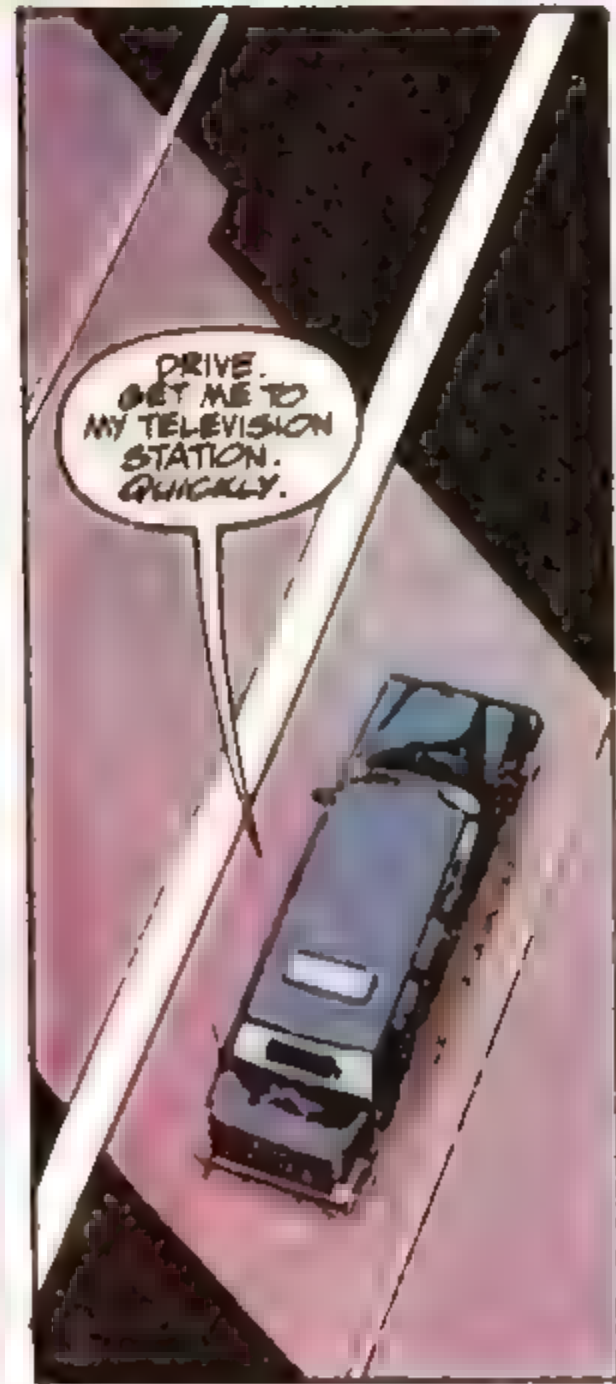
(I...I...
DID IT!!)



DID
IT—



COURSE
YOU DID.



DRIVE.
GET ME TO
MY TELEVISION
STATION.
QUICKLY.

AND YOU WEREN'T EVEN AWARE OF THE BELT'S EXISTENCE UNTIL AFTER DAVOOD NASSUR BECAME "SINBAD"?

THIS IS TRUE. MY ORGANIZATION IS SO WIDESPREAD THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, I MUST RELY ON THE HONOR AND TRUST OF MY AIDES.

AND WHEN YOU DISCOVERED THAT SOME OF THOSE AIDES HAD ENGAGED IN SMUGGLING HIGH-TECH ARMS TO THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS D.M.T.?

I WAS SHOCKED. DEEPLY SHOCKED. WE DO LIVE IN DECADENT TIMES.

I BELIEVE THAT YOUR OWN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ANGELICA GOODWIN, WAS A PART OF THIS CONSPIRACY?

AND IT WAS GOODWIN, IN COMBINATION WITH THE D.M.T. WHO TRIED TO START THIS ANTI-QURACI PURGE--

TRUE. I WAS VIRTUALLY A PRISONER OF THE WOMAN'S CUNNING.

I COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED MYSELF, IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE COURAGE OF DAVOOD NASSUR.

--TO KILL DAVOOD NASSUR AND GET THE META-POWER BELT AWAY FROM HIM?

YES, AND NOW THAT THE BELT IS BURNED-OUT AND USE-LESS, I HOPE WE CAN ALL SEE HOW FUTILE THIS SORT OF SCHEME IS.

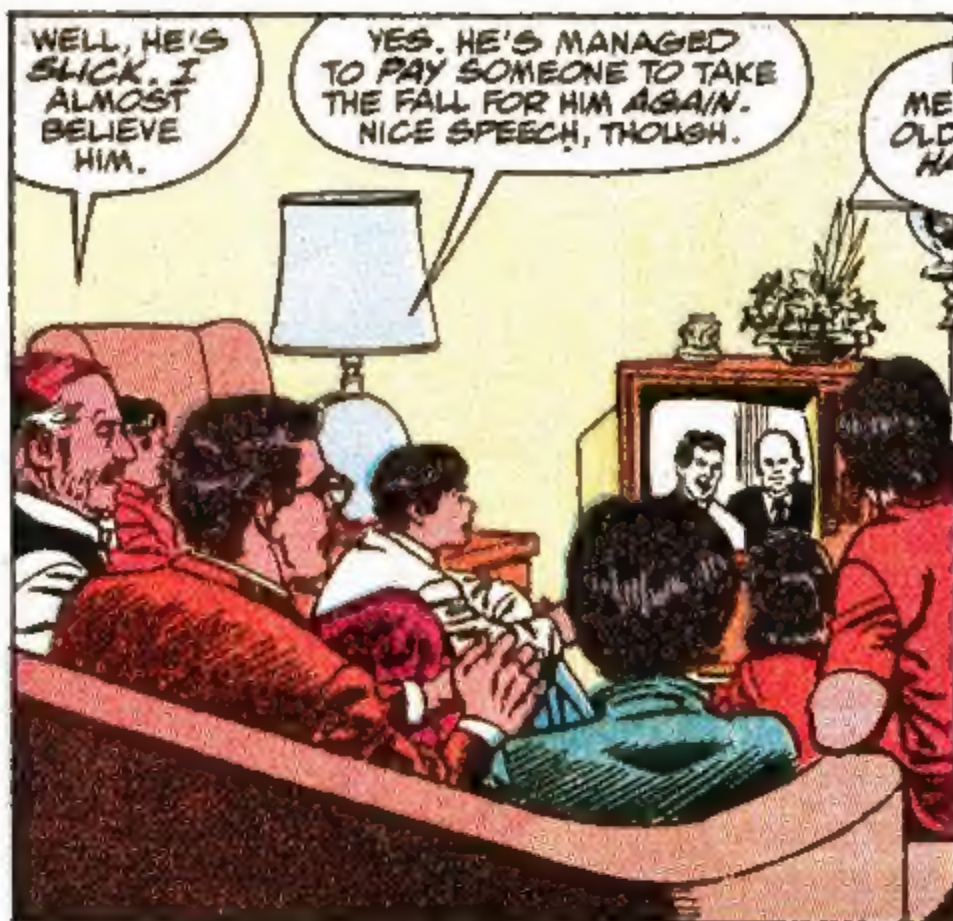
I THINK THIS HAS BEEN A LESSON IN HOW FRAGILE OUR SOCIAL CONTRACT IS AND HOW VIGILANT WE MUST BE IN PRESERVING THE RIGHTS OF ALL OUR CITIZENS.

MOST OF THE D.M.T. ESCAPED, UNFORTUNATELY, BUT THEY WEREN'T THE WHOLE PROBLEM...

WE WERE ALL TOO EAGER TO SEE ALL ARABS AS TERRORISTS, AND TO ALLOW OUR PREJUDICES TO BE MANIPULATED--

--RATHER THAN EXTENDING THE HAND OF BROTHERHOOD!

THANK YOU, LEX LUTHOR.



WELL, HE'S SLICK. I ALMOST BELIEVE HIM.

YES. HE'S MANAGED TO PAY SOMEONE TO TAKE THE FALL FOR HIM AGAIN. NICE SPEECH, THOUGH.

HE EVEN CALLED ME AND OFFERED ME MY OLD JOB BACK, AS IF HE HADN'T BEEN TRYING TO KILL ME!

WELL, AS I TOLD YOU, SORAYA, THEY ALWAYS NEED GOOD SECRETARIES AT THE PLANET.

MR. WHITE TOLD ME YOU CAN INTERVIEW NEXT WEEK.



AND HOW ARE YOU FEELING, DAYOOD? WHAT DID THE SCIENTISTS SAY ABOUT YOUR POWERS?

WHEN THE BELT FUSED, I LOST EVERYTHING. I WAS AS WEAK AS A KITTEN. IF SUPERMAN HADN'T CAUGHT ME...

YOU KNOW, HE ISN'T A BAD GUY.



YOU SAVED THE CITY, DAYOOD. PEOPLE AREN'T GOING TO FORGET THAT. AND, WHO KNOWS, ONCE YOU'RE FULLY RESTED...

I KNOW. IT WAS GREAT BEING SO POWERFUL.



I DIDN'T MENTION TO THEM THAT I COULD STILL DO THIS!

SAY, YOUR POWERS MAY COME BACK AFTER ALL.



YEAH, BUT DON'T TELL SUPERMAN. THE COMPETITION'D JUST MAKE HIM NERVOUS!

MUM'S THE WORD, DAYOOD. MUM'S THE WORD!

end

REACTION

DC COMICS INC.
666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103

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Dear Mike, et al.:

Re: ACTION COMICS #654

If there is a grade above "A-plus," then all concerned with the "Dark Knight over Metropolis" three-parter deserve it.

The story and art were outstanding, from beginning to end. With work such as this, is it any wonder I've always considered DC the leader in the comics industry.

As a long-time reader of both Batman's and Superman's titles (I'll put it this way—I bought WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #83, July/August 1956, off the comics rack at the local drug store with my allowance money), this is perhaps one of the—if not *the*—best Superman and Batman team-up stories ever.

Can you tell that I liked it?

The last four pages of ACTION #654 were worth the admission prices of all three issues. Excellent.

I hope to see more team-ups here in the future, and I can only hope they will be of this caliber. Thanks for an outstanding adventure.

Jon Aiken

1043 Avondale Avenue SE
Atlanta, GA 30312

Thank you, Jon, for your kind words. Here's hoping you stick with DC for another 34 years!

Dear Mike:

What can I say about the three-part "Dark Knight over Metropolis," except that it was *superb*! Its quality caught me off guard, and now I'm good and pumped up for WORLD'S FINEST.

What really made the whole story for me, though, were the last two pages of ACTION #654, with Supes coming to the Batman and giving him the Kryptonite. Perfect. Who knows...? This could be the start of a beautiful relationship.

Robert Knuist

1475-A California Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94041

Robert, we're glad we could pump you up with anticipation over WORLD'S FINEST, a comic with lots of muscle (like Superman, Batman, the Joker, Lex Luthor, Dave Gibbons, Steve Rude, Karl Kesel, and Steve Oliff)—but even if you're a "girlie man," you can enjoy WORLD'S FINEST, too! The third issue should be on sale now (but we'll bet you knew that already, didn't you?).

Dear DC:

With ACTION COMICS #654, the re-definition of the Superman-Batman team has come full circle. Okay, so it's an uneasy truce, but the new situation certainly does set the stage for more interesting team-ups. As things stood a few years ago, the best thing about the upcoming WORLD'S FINEST series would have been the art by the Dude. I hope now we'll be treated to an exploration of just how different the styles of these two heroes are.

At first, I was a bit surprised by Superman's decision to give Batman the Kryptonite. There seem to be other people the Man of Steel would "trust" more among his friends. Upon examination, however, Superman's move does possess a unique logic. His closer friends may not act against Superman because of their affection for him, but Batman would have no qualms against stopping whatever threat he represented.

It's great to finally see Clark and Lois together after all this time. When John Byrne went out of his way to make Lois truly self-sufficient and to diffuse the Clark-Lois-Lana triangle, the problems that still arose were frustrating. It's sort of ironic that, as Clark and Lois finally get serious, two of those problems—Cat Grant and Gangbuster—have been placed together. Perhaps another crossover story in the Superman titles is in order, namely "The Double Date." Sounds like a saga of epic proportions...

Brad Bigger

1506 Newell Road
Richmond, VA 23225

Dear Mike:

Okay, so by entrusting Luthor's Kryptonite ring to Batman's safekeeping at the end of ACTION #654, Superman established a friendship (of a sort) between the two characters. But wouldn't it have been easier, safer, and more logical for Superman to have just disposed of the ring himself, throwing it into the heart of the sun, perhaps?

Martin Simcox

84, Barnett Lane
Wordsley, Stourbridge
West Midlands, DY8 5PX
England

As Brad Bigger, mentions in the previous letter, Martin, Superman didn't merely want to get rid of the Kryptonite; he felt it should be in the possession of someone who could use it against him should the Man of Steel go bad or mad. Since Batman earned his trust in

ACTION #654, Superman chose Batman for that responsibility (not that it's a responsibility to be envied, mind you—would you want to go up against a rampaging Superman, even if you had a piece of Kryptonite as a weapon?). And while "your two favorite heroes" have developed mutual respect and understanding, their differences in motivations and operations keep their relationship from being a true friendship.

Attention, ACTION COMICS fans! Starting this issue, we're unveiling a new—and soon-to-be-time-honored—tradition of showcasing a singular misadventure each month by presenting its writer with a coveted Baldy Award. Is it good (or bad) to win a Baldy? We don't know... only time—and our readers—will tell. So, hats (or hair) off to the following lucky (?) letter writer...

Dear Action-packed ones:

Thank you, thank you! I had grown sick and tired of Gangbuster being hurt more than a javelin catcher! I wrote you, asking you to give the poor schmuck a break! My letter was not in vain!

Not only did José escape a death trap in ACTION COMICS #654, he also came from behind and saved the day (well, at least ten minutes of it)! Go, Gangbuster!

Mark Phillips

P.O. Box 1927

Johnson City, TN 37605

See—we told you Gangbuster would come out on top one day! (And wait'll you see what's coming up next for José!)

ACTION LINE: Baldy Award-winning Mark Phillips isn't the only ACTION fan thrilled by Gangbuster's triumph in issue #654—Lon Wolf of Maple Shade, NJ, Jacob Gilbert of Troy, NY, and regular Super-letterhacks Dale Coe of Warrington, Cheshire, England, and Melissa Page of Nortonville, KY, all expressed glee over the handling of Gangbuster in the "Dark Knight over Metropolis" conclusion. From Detroit, MI, Robert Kowalski laments "the loss of camaraderie" between DC's heroes in our current continuity. But hey, Bob, what about Blue Beetle and Booster Gold? Fire and Ice? Hawk and Dove? Orion and Lightray? Cyborg and Changeling? Green Arrow and Black Canary? Guy Gardner and ... well, Guy Gardner?

Dear DC:

As usual, issue #654 of ACTION COMICS, "Deadly Covenant," really lived up to its name—action.

The conclusion of the Batman team-up trilogy was handled well. I appreciate editor Mike Carlin's method of tying up the dangling plot threads over the past months by weaving a murder mystery worthy of the "World's Greatest Detective" to resolve. So Clark Kent's identity crisis is alleviated in regard to Amanda McCoy's diary information, Morgan Edge will spend some time in a Metropolis penitentiary, and, let's hope, Intergang will take a needed sabbatical year.

The best development of ACTION #654 was the melting of the bitterness between Superman and Batman. This was long overdue. Their Batcave discussion was excellent!

Hats off to Bob McLeod and Brett Breeding's visual storytelling; accompanied by Roger Stern's storytelling, this book remains my monthly favorite. Keep up the peak performance. And let's not overlook the efforts of Bill Oakley and Glenn Whitmore, as well as Jon Peterson and Mike Carlin. I'm looking forward to the summer adventures of the Man of Tomorrow.

If I may ask one question: What is the status of Solomon Grundy?

Kevin J. Conley
12 Burgess Street
Methuen, MA 01844

Solomon Grundy was last seen migrating toward the European country of Markovia. You'll find out why in an all-new comic starring some familiar (and brand-new) faces, coming your way sometime next year...

Dear Re-Actionaries:

Wow! The ending of ACTION #654 was surprisingly moving. At first, I was disappointed with the way the story petered out during Cat Grant's rescue; this issue of ACTION began on a rather anticlimactic note, and "Dark Knight over Metropolis" may go down in history as the only trilogy in comics wherein the middle chapter was the most exciting and best read. But ACTION #654's ending caught me unawares. All this time, I thought Batman was gonna keep the Kryptonite ring, just in case Superman got in his way sometime. But then he gives it back to Superman—and then Superman gives it right back to him. And I'm stunned...

...but I was stunned only until I realized how logical this choice is. Superman has been controlled before, perhaps most devastatingly in THE WEIRD, and who could stop him if this happened again? Batman is the only person alive who both knows Superman's dual identity and would have the guts to use the ring on Clark if the situation called for it (Lana and Me and Pa Kent could never bring themselves to do it). Therefore, Superman makes the bold gesture of giving the ring to Batman. (Indeed, he has made a few other bold gestures of late, such as his missing Lois a while back. Now that the

Eradicator's gone, Clark's really beginning to assert himself!)

I see two possible drawbacks to Batman's possession of the Kryptonite ring. One is that so many people have figured out the Bruce/Batman connection (Rä's al Ghül, Henri Ducard, Silver St. Cloud, and maybe even Commissioner Gordon) that Batman's identity is no longer so secret, and whoever breaks into the Batcave next may soon find Superman's fate in his or her hands. My other qualm is that you might be introducing this facet of their relationship as a plot device for some soon-to-come issue. I would like to think that this was conceived purely as something the characters would just do without a thought for the future—no plot twists or ironies plotted for the ring just yet, just a comfortable home in Batman's utility belt.

I am glad to see all those loose ends (the scrapbook, Kryptonite ring, and Edge's trial) tied up at last, and I'm sad to see Amanda "Pete Ross in Drag" McCoy gone forever. My only gripe is that neither Superman nor Batman ever referred to their tense last meeting in "A Death in the Family." I think that could've been milked for some significant character development. And what's this between Cat and Jose...?

Peter T. Chattaway
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Peter, the folks who've figured out that Batman is Bruce Wayne were either master sleuths themselves, or were associated with both Bats and Bruce and thereby made the connection; it's doubtful that anyone else will get a line on the Dark Knight's I.D. anytime soon. It's also doubtful that anyone, with the exception of someone with meta-human capabilities, will break into the Batcave, either. Superman feels safe by entrusting the Kryptonite ring to Batman, and so do we.

Dear Mike Carlin and associates:

As I write this, we teachers are writing progress reports about our students. I've decided to extend my "break" just a little to give ACTION #654 a report card:

ACTION: Very Good. Superman, Batman, and Gangbuster cooperated effectively (teachers like to see cooperation).

INTELLIGENCE: Good. No glaring errors, except on the part of the bad guys (which suits me fine).

ARTWORK: Very Good. Effective use of visual techniques to advance the story line. I particularly appreciated the shadow of the mini-blinds on Superman's face.

RESOLUTION: Excellent! Superman's decision to entrust the Batman with the Kryptonite was superb. The idea was great, and it was carried out powerfully on the final page. Rarely have so many loose story lines been so skillfully woven with such a satisfying finish.

Although I continue to introduce comics to my advanced young readers, stories such as these really get me longing for some 5th graders (instead of 2nd)

to get into a discussion with about the contrasts between Superman and Batman. Fascinating stuff—but then I'd be tempted to skip Math and Handwriting periods.

Congratulations, fellas, on several jobs well done. You're promoted!

Ann C.H. Brachwitz
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Thanks for the glowing report card, teach—but do we have to get it signed by a parent or guardian?!

—Michael Eury



NEXT IN SUPERMAN: The "Krisis of the Krimson Kryptonite" thrusts the Man of Steel into a direct physical confrontation with his greatest foe! Problem is that this strange, radioactive red rock has put Lex Luthor and Superman on the same ground power-wise! Jerry Ordway and Dennis Janke do the honors in two weeks in SUPERMAN #49!

NEXT IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN: "Krisis..." Part Two puts Superman face to face with Mammoth—unfortunately for Superman, he's doing this without any super-powers whatsoever! Maybe not the smartest thing he's ever done—but a Superman's gotta do what a Superman's gotta do! Dan Jurgens and Art Thibert bring forth ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #472 in three weeks!

NEXT IN STARMAN: Yup, that's right... in STARMAN the former Man of Steel contacts Starman in an attempt to "recharge his batteries." Does it work? Guess you'll have to read "Krisis of the Krimson Kryptonite" Part Two-A in STARMAN #28 by Roger Stern, Dave Hoover, and Scott Hanna, on sale in three weeks—or read the next next-issue box comin' up below.

NEXT IN ACTION COMICS: Superman is back in action (pun obviously intended)—but he's getting by with a little help from his friends! Guardian and Gangbuster are on hand... and Professor Hamilton built the new Super-Suit that the Man of Steel (now literally!) sports throughout! Why all the commotion? Well, you see, there's been this prison break-out from Stryker's Island and... oh... just please buy it—or buy ACTION five months from now and read the letters about it. Hold it, where were we? Oh, yes... that's ACTION COMICS #659 by Roger Stern, Bob McLeod, and Brett Breeding, on sale in just four weeks!



This issue's cover was pencilled by Kerry Gammill, inked by Bob McLeod, and colored by Glenn Whitmore.